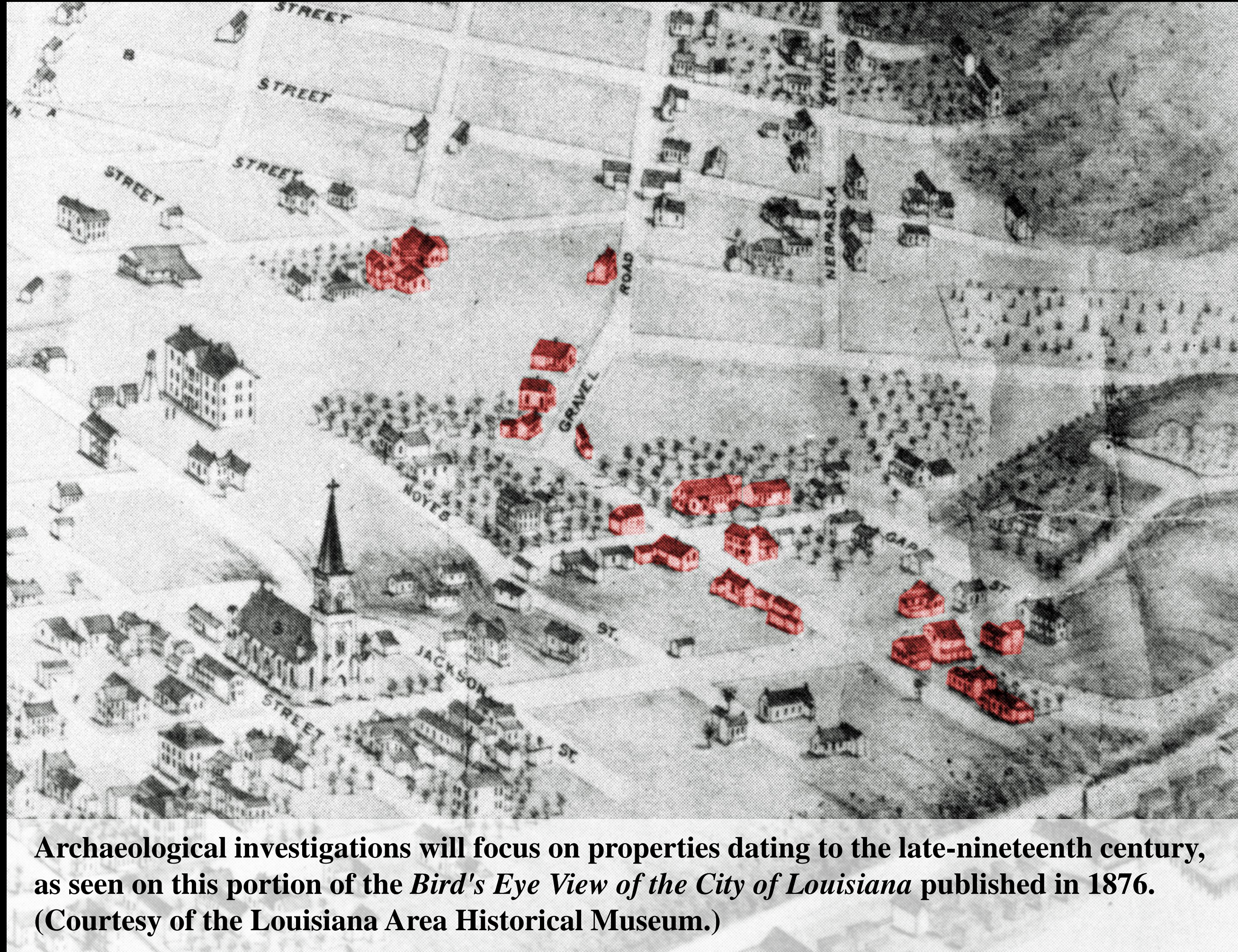


Archaeological Investigations



Archaeological investigations will focus on properties dating to the late-nineteenth century, as seen on this portion of the *Bird's Eye View of the City of Louisiana* published in 1876. (Courtesy of the Louisiana Area Historical Museum.)

Historical research, including analysis of maps and census records, indicates that the current project area was occupied by multiple households during the second half of the nineteenth century. MoDOT archaeologists are evaluating the potential for remains of these households, as well as prehistoric sites, to remain buried and intact.

Historical archaeology often focuses on the excavation of "features" such as privies, water closets, wells, cisterns, ash pits, cellars, and trash middens. The types of artifacts often recovered include dishes, bottles, toys, medical supplies, clothing, tobacco pipes, tools, and many other domestic and personal items.



Excavation of an oval-shaped privy, with highway traffic rushing by in the background.



A team of archaeologists excavated a brick-lined cistern which was used during the 19th-century to collect rain water for drinking, cooking, and washing. This feature was used from the 1850s until the 1890s.

Excavation of a stone-lined privy (out-house): as an archaeologist carefully measures the depth of the excavation, a second researcher takes notes. This feature was located behind a house built during the late-1840s, and occupied by the same family until the 1880s.

